

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01

H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SWF-01 OIC-02 /091 W

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O 051450Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9522

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

USECOMMISSION BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 4234

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PASS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLITMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT ETRD RO

SUBJ: GATT WP ON ROMANIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF

REF: A) STATE 265415; B) GENEVA 7304

1. DEC MET WITH ROMANIANS (PETRUSCOU, MODORAN) AND PRESENTED POINTS IN PARA 1 OF REFTTEL (A). PETRESCOU EMPHASIZED ROMANIAN TARIFF IS PURELY ECONOMIC IMPLEMENT PUT IN PLACE FOR ECONOMIC RATIONALIZATION REASONS. HE SAID IN SPITE OF EXISTENCE OF SUCH CENTRALLY ORGANIZED POLICY INSTRUMENTS AS ECONOMIC PLAN, PURCHASING DECISIONS ARE LEFT TO ENTERPRISES. PETRESCOU EMPHASIZED THAT ANY RESULTING DECISIONS TO PURCHASE FROM WITHIN ROMAN OR FROM CEMA SOURCES WOULD BE TOTALLY ON BASIS OF ECONOMIC MERIT AND DEVOID OF ANY TAMPERING OR DIRECTION OF ANY KIND. HE STRESSED DESIRE
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OF ROMANIA BE IN POSITION TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC

LIBERALIZATION WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT YEARS.

2. PETRESCOU SAID ROMANIA HOPES GATT WP WILL STICK TO TERMS OF REFERENCE, I.E. TO EXAMINE TARIFF ITSELF AND NOT WANDER INTO OTHER AREAS SUCH AS IMAGINED MANIPULATION OF ROMANIAN PURCHASING OR PRICING DECISIONS. WE INDICATED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL HAVE ROMANIA MAINTAIN IMPORT COMMITMENT; PETRESCOU SAID THIS ALREADY COVERED BY ROMANIA'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE I OF GATT BUT HE COULD ASSURE US IMPORT COMMITMENT WOULD REMAIN EFFECTIVE IN PRACTICE. WE WELCOMED THIS NEWS BUT REPEATED CONTINUATION OF COMMITMENT WAS IMPORTANT. ROMANIANS THEN SAID WHILE FORMAL WRITTEN CONTINUATION OF COMMITMENT NOT POSSIBLE, THEY MIGHT BE ABLE GIVE VERBAL ASSURANCE OF CONTINUATION OF COMMITMENT.

3. MISSION BELIEVES ORAL STATEMENT ALONG THESE LINES IN WORKING PARTY WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN MEETING U.S. CONCERNS. SUGGEST LORRIMER ARRIVE WITH RESPONSES ON FURTHER QUESTIONS TO POINTS RAISED BY PETRESCOU IN PARA 1 ABOVE, INCLUDING EXAMPLES OF OTHER POLICY INSTRUMENTS USED BY GOR TO AFFECT TRADE FLOWS. WE HAVE KEPT OPEN POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER MEETING WITH ROMANIANS A.M. OF DECEMBER 9. DALE

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